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a line with 160th Street, of an apetalous form of *Saxifraga Virginensis*. In two plants out of a dozen the five petals, in fully half the flowers, had been regularly converted into stamens, making the total number fifteen, five single ones alternating with five anteposed pairs. Visiting the station again this spring, (May 6th), I found three more of these apetalous saxifragas, agreeing exactly with those previously collected, although none of them was so perfectly developed as the best of last year's specimens. Hardly more than one or two of the flowers displayed the full fifteen stamens, and many had fewer than ten, though even in these the characteristic anteposed pairs occasionally occurred. In the three plants in question, there were no indications at all of normal petals; in a fourth, however, with the taller stem and looser flower cluster of the specific type, a great many of them were white and obviously petaloid, and yet much reduced in size and in some cases with partially formed anther cells. This transition state is very common in many plants where stamens are turning into petals. The interest in this case arose from the fact that here the much rarer change of petals into stamens was actually and visibly taking place. The discovery of these additional specimens strengthens my opinion that a saxifrage of this apetalous fifteen-stamened form, occurring by chance, matured seeds from which the plants collected in two successive years were produced. To my mind we have here a very curious and interesting, though as yet scarcely successful, attempt on the part of nature to establish a good variety by perpetuating what must have been originally a mere teratological variation.

E. E. STERNS.

Rules for the Botanical Exchange Club.

It having been decided to organize the American Botanical Exchange in connection with the National Herbarium in the Department of Agriculture, the Botanist of the Department will act as Director of the Exchange, and the following rules will be followed in its management, until further notice.

1. Persons desiring specimens are required to contribute a number regarded as equivalent in value to those called for. The specimens wanted in return may be selected when the others are sent or at any time afterward.

2. The number of the specimens returned will be at the discretion of the Director, and will depend on the rarity and condition of those furnished. In the case of well-known plants they will probably nearly equal the number sent.

3. In the case of small plants, several specimens should be furnished under one number, as in such cases a single specimen is not a satisfactory representation of the species.

4. Specimens may be called for by species or genera or by the locality from which they are wanted. To save time the species may be indicated by the numbers which they bear in any well-known American catalogue, the name and the edition of the catalogue being given.

5. Specimens sent must be accurately named and bear the date and locality of collecting, with the name of collector. Little value will be attached to specimens which are imperfect or poorly prepared.

6. The Director of the Exchange will reserve the right to indicate his judgment in cases where specimens seem improperly named, but the responsibility of the names will in other cases rest with the original sender.

7. For the present, well prepared specimens of all phaenogamous and higher cryptogamous plants will be received, and also specimens of thallophytes, the last mentioned to be in charge of the Chief of the Section of Vegetable Pathology. Hereafter lists will be published of plants especially desired or of which no more specimens are needed.

8. An account of the specimens received from each person will be kept, and of those sent in return, and also of any other specimens which he desires or can supply. The Exchange will thus serve as a bureau of information upon this subject.

9. Conditions of membership :—

Any botanist may become a member of the Exchange Club by paying annually to the Director the sum of two dollars, this money to be used in payment for postage, printing and incidental expenses.

10. Address specimens and communications to the Director of the Exchange.

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